

The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1912.

DEMOCRACY AND SCHOOL TEACHERS.

With the principles of democracy the Times-Dispatch is in full accord. We believe that the people have a right to choose their own officers and to determine their own forms of government. But this belief does not mean that the Times-Dispatch approves and applauds every so-called step towards democracy. The right to have medical treatment does not entitle a man to spread contagious diseases because he believes that the faith cure is a better remedy for smallpox than vaccination. The public rights come in to override personal idiosyncrasies, and, for the good of all, the holder of such doctrines is compelled to forego his private feelings and submit to police regulations. In the Legislature at present there is an obvious tendency to revolt against the so-called centralization of education. A bill is now pending to elect division superintendents of schools by popular vote, and another bill has been introduced to elect school trustees the same way. The principle behind both of these bills is the same. Their supporters feel that the school affairs of Virginia as at present administered are too far removed from the people and do not respond readily enough to popular wishes. Yet all must admit that the history of our government has shown that no surer method can be discovered for destroying the value of popular election than by increasing the number of offices to such a point that the voter loses all sense of interest and relative importance.

As it is to-day so many officers are elected by popular vote that the actual effect is to destroy in large measure the power of the ballot. The real principle behind the commission form of government is that the voters exercise their power by choosing a man who they deem fit and worthy to carry out their wishes for them. No railroad could run if the stockholders elected every section hand; no factory could exist if the stockholders voted for each mechanic, and logrolled as they voted. The proof of the value of Virginia's school system is the growth that this State has made in matters of education and the rank that it has taken among the other States of this Union.

The average division superintendent has been trained for his work; he is not a politician, and, if he were, he would be a worse superintendent. Like a man of science, his whole intellect is centered upon the development of education and the improvement of school conditions. From every motive, the patrons of the school should desire to keep this class of public servants out of politics. The less these executives of the educational department have to do with the ballot box, the better it is for the school boy or school girl; the better it is for the tax payer, the better it is for the State. Under the present system, the same is true of the trustees; they are responsive to popular will; they perform heavy services for practically no salary, and the class of man who is of the most value on the school board is nearly always one who would not undertake those duties if he had first to go through a house to house campaign for votes.

In its desire to be powerful, democracy may overreach itself, and the bills we have been discussing show how, with the best intentions to increase the power of the people, it may be perfectly possible to limit and curtail the very energies that the laws design to set free.

A TRUST SYMPOSIUM.

An illuminating poll of public opinion on the Sherman anti-trust act has just been completed by the National Civic Federation, which received more than 15,000 expressions from editors, business men, economists and labor leaders in reply to a series of questions on the general relations between the government and the great combinations. It is evident from a survey of the replies that public thought is going along one main channel. Combination is regarded as an accepted fact, and the need for regulation in the interest of society is equally recognized. A summary of the answers indicates:

That there is very little demand for an unconditional repeal of the Sherman act.

That there is practically no desire to abolish the large combinations.

That unregulated and unrestricted private or corporate control of combinations is not favored.

That Federal license or incorporation for companies doing an interstate business is desired.

That government ownership of public utilities is not wanted.

The drift of all the suggestions for amending the Sherman law is "Make it so that business men can understand

it," or "Bring it into line with modern business conditions."

Perhaps the chief criticism which can be applied to these answers is that they represent conservative opinion, despite the fact that there is some representation of labor views. There was a strong reactionary element included, as is evident from the strength of the antagonism to the propositions for steadier employment of labor at better prices and for better protection against industrial accidents. Thirty-five per cent. of the replies formed this opposition.

The National Civic Federation has a worthy aim, of course, but it reaches very many men of the standard school of political theory, who regard with ultra-conservatism any change toward uplift or any improvement of the lot of the plain people. The middle class has, perhaps, too little voice in the mass of opinions expressed. The opinion of the people of the nation cannot be formulated even by 15,000 men. The well springs of public opinion lie deep.

PUSH THE RICHMOND LEGISLATION.

The bill embodying the charter changes requested by the people of Richmond passed the House yesterday with but one dissenting vote. The responsibility for the passage of this bill now rests on Senators Harman and Folkes. The Times-Dispatch urges them, as it urged the House delegation, to push this measure with all possible speed, so that it may be sent to the Governor for his approval at once. Immediate passage of the bill will quiet the rumors which have been afloat as to obstruction and opposition to the charter legislation from an unknown quarter. Little credence has been placed in these reports, but the delay which this measure has suffered has given petty politicians about the city an opportunity to assert that the charter changes would be held up in the Legislature and buried until the last days of the session, when the hope of resurrection is slender and the voice of minor opposition fatal. No open antagonism has been manifested. The length of time consumed in getting this bill before the General Assembly, because of its defective shape when first presented, has caused anxiety on the part of the citizens who fought for the measure and who appealed successfully to the City Council for it. All fears will be dissipated, all rumors put to flight, by speedy action in the Senate, and we trust that our two Senators will cause this bill to be put upon its passage at the earliest feasible moment.

MUNICIPAL BUREAUCRATS.

Old privileges held hard, and one of the dearest rights has been the provision requiring officeholders to be voters. That provision and that policy was indorsed last night by the Board of Aldermen when it went on record as opposed to the Montague bill, which provides that cities may "employ" such services as they need without having to look into the servant's voting qualifications. A similar bill is before the New York Assembly, only that bill takes the other view. The Walker bill in New York provides that no city or State office can be held by a man who has not been a resident of the city or State for a year at the time of his appointment, which is an equally efficient method of obtaining the same results as those desired by the opponents of the emancipating bill before the Virginia Legislature.

The argument in New York is, on its face, that the Governor and the Mayor should not have a free hand in making appointments, because they have always made mistakes. If this were true, it would follow that all Mayors and Governors of New York were hopelessly incompetent, for it has not been found out that all banks or schools or colleges or insurance companies suffered by freedom in choosing the best talent they could secure for the work in hand. Nor does it appear that when New York City got Colonel Waring as a street cleaning commissioner it made a mistake. The fact is the reverse. Colonel Waring was chosen for his general fitness, and he established an absolutely new mark in America for efficiency in cleaning the streets of a great city.

There used to be a time when only the sons of nobles could hold commissions in the King's army, and many wise people believed—the Duke of Wellington among them—that nobody but so-called gentlemen's sons were fit to command troops. And yet, the history of warfare has shown that no party or faction or no class distinction determined military capacity. In trying to limit all offices to voters of a city, we see another attempt to establish a narrow and degrading barrier. The bill Montague measures ought to be a law. It is essentially sound, and the cities of Virginia need it.

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION.

Of the fact that the conservation problem—one of the most serious, important, indeed, vital problems confronting the country—is receiving practical attention, two most notable and gratifying proofs are at hand. Specifically both have to do with the question of the lumber supply, but may, it is to be hoped, be contentedly assumed to be an earnest of coming arousment of appreciation of the necessity of conservation of other natural resources.

Not long since a number of lumber manufacturers, representing western States, held a conference at Portland, Oregon, to discuss forest protection from fire, the evils of profligate cutting and the subject of reforestation. Now it is learned that a lumber company which had just purchased 250,000 acres of land in Western North Carolina, has determined to put the entire tract under the advisory

supervision of the United States Forestry Bureau.

In addition to that, the company proposes to utilize completely all the sawdust and other waste from its several mills. Instead of dumping them into the streams or piling them up to rot. The sawdust will be used at a central power plant, where it will be converted into electrical power to run all the mills and factories producing the waste, together with a large pulp mill. Under the advisory supervision of the Forestry Bureau, judgment in felling will be exercised, and replanting will be continuously carried on, with a view to maintaining indefinitely a timber stand. In other words, the company designs establishing a perpetual timber farm by means of scientific cultivation and conservation.

This policy is a radical departure from the short-sighted, selfish, ruthless methods of the vast majority of the lumber or timber companies, which, after acquiring a stretch of forest land or the timber rights thereof, proceed as expeditiously as possible to slay and spare not. Usually such enterprises take no thought of the morrow, either as it concerns themselves or bears upon the interests of others, as involved in the prevention of disastrous floods or the conservation of the water supply.

But also the policy is a most significant and encouraging departure as marking an advance of the conservation movement towards practical and widespread economic results. Coupled with the Portland conference, it affords evidence of a realization of involvement of the nation's future prosperity in conservation, which appeals for accentuation to all similar interests and enterprises in every State in the Union.

Virginia, with her immense resources of forest and mine and her experience with thoughtless and prodigal wastage, should be among the foremost States that would be benefited through harkening to the appeal.

There is one affliction of public speakers that is very absurd. An orator or near-orator will, after carefully preparing his speech and using his "Bartlett's Quotations" overtime, get off a sentence like this: "Is it not Quintilian who says, 'Those who wish to appear wise among fools among the wise seem foolish?'" or "Was it not Macaulay who declared that that is the best government which desires to make the people happy and know how to make them happy?" In other words, a public speaker, after positively ascertaining that it was Quintilian and Macaulay who said these things, deliberately insinuates that he is not sure about it, and pretends that he does not know something that he does know. This may be a flattery trap for the auditor, who, pleased that the orator should credit him with any knowledge of literature, admits to himself that Quintilian or Macaulay undoubtedly must have said it, because he knows nothing to the contrary.

At a recent examination of candidates for the police department in Chicago the following were some of the questions asked and some of the answers:

"Larceny—A man or a woman who marries a relative."

"Larceny—Speeding an automobile or other rig on wheels."

"Misdemeanor—When a person is taken into court and sued."

"Robbery—An act of murder, and the time to shoot or hit."

"What are the duties of a policeman?"—To take care of fires, murdering and the United States."

Imagine any of Richmond's finest putting up any such replies as that!

When it comes to cheering for one of their alumni, the University of Virginia Wilson boomers can give points to any of the lads at the University of Cincinnati, Yale, Bethany College, or any of the other colleges with alumni in the presidential timber lot.

The ground hog came out, saw his shadow and went back to his den. It is to be hoped that the budding spring poets will go and do likewise.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Poem Wanted.

Can you publish the poem in which these words or some very like them occur?

"We come on earth to cry, don't you know."

"We grow older, then we sigh; Older still, then we die," etc.

Can any one send copy?

Miss Mary Johnston.

Please give the date and place of Miss Mary Johnston's birth and the date of her first book. J. A. 1870, Buchanan, Va. 1898.

White's Georgia.

Please be good enough to inform me when White's Statistical History of Georgia was published, and whether it is regarded to be authoritative.

WILSON K.

Subscription to Periodical.

I subscribed to a paper for three months. It continued to come to me and I to receive it for thirteen months. Can I be forced to pay for the entire time?

EARL BOXLEY.

Addresses.

Will you give the addresses of Mrs. Hetty Green and Colonel John J. A. 1870, Buchanan, Va. 1898.

Taxation.

Please state the tax rates in Virginia and in Richmond, and inform me whether I should be taxed on furniture in my house, but unpaid for?

G. M. H. 1868; Richmond rate, 35 cents on \$100; Richmond rate, \$1.49 on the \$100. If you to the furniture has passed to the person who sold, you should not.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Sister's Picture.
When sister gets her picture took
She makes an awful fuss;
She thrashes 'round until she has
The whole house in a muss.
She starts to gettin' ready
Long before it's time to go.
And the family's in an uproar
For a good long week or so.

She daubs the powder on her nose,
And on her cheeks some paint.
She thinks that in the picture she
Must look like what she ain't.
She puts her best silk stockings on,
And fusses with her hair,
And combs it like it never was
On her or anywhere.

She gets down to the gallery,
And then the fun begins.
She practices a lot of smirks,
And frowns and scowls and grins.
She tries to pose, unconscious like,
With easy pose and grace,
But most that she makes out to do
Is just twist up her face.

And when she gets the proofs up home
The folks all have to laugh.
For the expression on the face
Is like a dyin' cat.
The picture ain't like her at all,
'Tain't natural a bit,
But sister thinks it is just grand,
And says there's class to it.

It makes her look a good deal like
Some fourth-class actress.
And ain't got no resemblance to
No one we've ever seen.
She never gets dolled up like that,
Nor has that painful look,
Exceptin' sometimes when she goes
To get her picture took.

According to Uncle Abner.
More responsibility is placed on suspenders than on any other invention of this race of men.

This would be a reasonably happy world if every fellow could get his love letters back.

Among the members of the great leisure class in this country must be numbered the husbands of the china painters.

Oliver Spink has started in makin' a burnt wood picture for Miss Fanny Tibbitt's birthday present, but has let it be noised around that if she makes eyes at any travelin' men during the year, somebody else will be the fair recipient of the same.

The young fellows that got a lot of impossible neckties for Christmas should save 'em up until after they get married. After a feller is married he doesn't care what he wears.

There are two kinds of people that there is no use in trying to convert. One is the kind that wears red flannel underclothing, and the other is the kind that dots on them.

Our idea of having a good time is going to an afternoon reception and conversation, where the subject under discussion is Masterline's "Influence Upon Modern Drama."

Fame.

Professor Archibald Mutt was quite unknown to Fame until he found a little microbe on a twenty thousand dollar bill.

The papers used his portrait and called him a famous manager, got wise. And signed a contract with him, agreeing that he was a prize. When this engagement had expired, with no more lecture dates to fill, Professor Mutt was not dismayed, but just went into vaudeville.

Bohunkus Jones, he pined for fame. Life sang for him a dismal tune. And so he thought he'd try his hand at getting up a power balloon.

He built the thing and advertised that he was just about to fly. Around the world, a wonderful feat that no man had had done to try. He was profusely interviewed. His name was heard on every lip. He went out lecturing, and then from time to time postponed the trip. When interest seemed to lag once more he decided to make a tour. He'd fly five miles and then come back and lecture for a year or more.

Miss Mazie Smith found life was tame. She traveled with a burlesque show. For she was just a chorus girl—one of a long, and tiresome row.

She bribed a fellow passenger to kiss her in a trolley car.

The papers played the thing up big. The managers made her a star. Her name is on the theatre, spelled out in incandescent lights. And Mazie now is waxing high on "S. R. O." one hundred nights. Just now she is the bowling rage. Her luck is quite beyond compare; it's said that she is now engaged to wed a Pittsburgh millionaire.

Erasmus Perkins thought he'd like to grab some notoriety. He recommended "Pilkens's Pills" and now his smiling face you see in all the papers 'round about, and he's the hon of the town.

There are a thousand easy ways to jump into a quick renown. With all the avenues to Fame wide open, safe and sane and sure, There's not a reason in the world why any one should be obscure.

Voice of the People

Change This Law.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
An open letter to the Legislature of Virginia.

The letter, though an humble citizen of the State, has been somewhat surprised that with the bright array of legal talent which has been present in our General Assembly for years that

the director of the course for the training of teachers at the great University of Wisconsin says: "In June, 1910, out of a total of ninety-eight university teachers' certificates granted to students of the State, only three, German, Latin and mathematics, and three certificates were granted to men. The decline in the number of men entering the work of teaching, and their almost complete disappearance from some departments of instruction, presents not only a university problem, but a social problem. He states further that 'this unfortunate condition is due not primarily to unattractive financial outlook of the work of teaching, but rather to the idea that public school teachers are an inferior and socially marked class.'"

The problem of making teaching respectable to young men, and of building up an ideal of constructive education, and of supplying the State with men imbued with such ideas, has been largely solved by the college at Williamsburg, and is its most signal contribution to a State institution to the public welfare.

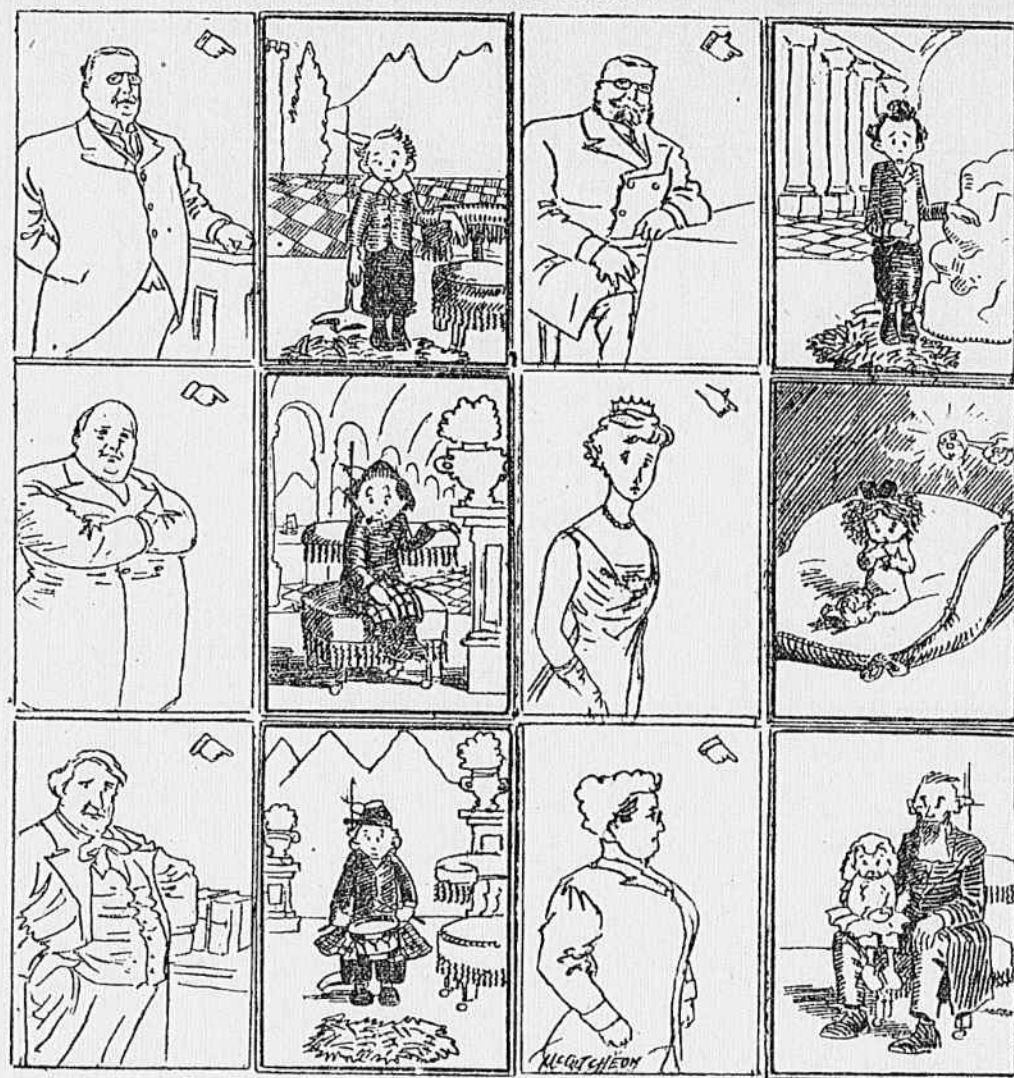
We hear sometimes criticisms of the number of students at Williams and Mary, and comparisons with the large numbers at other State institutions, but it is not by comparing the college with these institutions, whose objects are different, that a correct conception of the work of Williams and Mary is to be arrived at. The comparison must be made with the colleges of the other States, where the great school of education at the University of Chicago, which is equipped with every convenience that wealth can supply, and though it has hundreds of women taking its courses, it has only twenty-three undergraduates. This is engaged in similar work. This is engaged in a statement made by one of its directors. Then, according to the

We're all self-made men, but not very many of us have stayed on the job. Time is a great healer—unless you're in business.

GHOSTS OF THE PAST

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



Section 2557 of the Code of Virginia has been allowed to stand as it is today for many years.

It seems it was taken from the Code of 1849, and as the law then stood it was not calculated to work the hardship it may carry with it under our present statutes.

The writer sees no objection to the subdivision of the same. That subdivision reads as follows: "The testator was a married woman, and her husband shall be entitled to the said surplus of her estate."

Suppose a man marries a widow. She has valuable personal property, and she is intestate; the husband is heir to her estate and the children are left penniless. Is it necessary to discuss such a monstrous proposition? Should not the law be changed, and changed quickly, to provide for such a contingency?

I saw from your valuable paper that at the banquet of the Legislature, Hon. S. H. Love, of Lunenburg, responded eloquently to the toast, "Our Women."

Will not the honorable gentlemen introduce some bill to protect the "women" and their children in such a contingency as is stated above?

I. B. BELL.

Milburn, Va. 1703-2.

William and Mary's Work.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—The people of Virginia are familiar with the greatness of the achievement of William and Mary College in the past, but perhaps very few know the truly wonderful performance of the college has been quietly performing in the present educational developments.

The comparative figures given by me in a recent address to the Finance Committee of the Legislature are so striking as to be of general compelling interest. Every one knows the failure of the university to establish a large school of agriculture, and how, despite the immense Federal and State appropriations which it has received for the purpose, the energies of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute have been largely directed to engineering, but only a few presented to appreciate that the problem of the State is the problem of popularizing the profession of teaching among young men was even one of the most conspicuous in the statistics of the States that the difficulty which has been experienced of inducing male students to attend normal schools and the educational departments at the colleges and universities. This failure has led to a distinct feminization of the profession of public school teaching, even in the higher fields. Hear what the director of the course for the training of teachers at the great University of Wisconsin says: "In June, 1910, out of a total of ninety-eight university teachers' certificates granted to students of the State, only three, German, Latin and mathematics, and three certificates were granted to men. The decline in the number of men entering the work of teaching, and their almost complete disappearance from some departments of instruction, presents not only a university problem, but a social problem. He states further that 'this unfortunate condition is due not primarily to unattractive financial outlook of the work of teaching, but rather to the idea that public school teachers are an inferior and socially marked class.'"

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report of one of its faculty, the famous Columbia University College of Teachers, in New York, has practically no men among its undergraduates. Further evidence is afforded by the report of the United States Commissioner of Education, which mentions only four institutions of higher learning in America, having as many male students taking work in education as has Williams and Mary; and this, despite their immense wealth, numerous faculty and magnificent buildings. The average yearly attendance at Williams and Mary during the last ten years has been about 220, and of this number, average taking education has been upwards of 150. This number comprises not only all those who take the pledge to teach in the public schools, but many others, who do not care to take this pledge, but who, nevertheless, take the same course.

Statistics of the college during the past few years, 87 1/2 per cent. took special work in education and 78 per cent. have actually entered the profession of teaching. Of the unpledged graduates of the past four years 62 1/2 per cent. have entered the teaching profession, no obligation to do so. At this session there are as many men of college grade in the department of education at Williams and Mary as there are in all the colleges taken together of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania; or of Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, or of Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas; or Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Washington and Oregon taken together. (See report of the United States Commissioner of Education for 1911).

Even when Williams and Mary is compared with institutions not like it, of college grade, but of more school grade, the result is equally remarkable. In all these institutions, while the number of women is very large, the number of men is very small. A significant fact that at all the universities in the country, including our own, the number of students of college grade in their classes of education is exceedingly small—a mere half-dozen or so.

In comparison of records with the other male institutions of the State shows that Williams and Mary as a teachers' college does not merely give college grade to students, but that she actually draws men into the profession, who, if educated at another place, would not consider it. The report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for 1910 shows that Williams and Mary has as many of her graduates teaching in the public schools as the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the University of Virginia, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Kentucky.

William and Mary to the State is not to be measured by the number of men who are trained at the school for officers, who are vastly more important than an equal number of teachers, but it does show that one-half of the higher school officials, who directly aid the Superintendent of Public Instruction in carrying forward his great work, are Williams and Mary men; nineteen Williams and Mary division and city superintendents alone have been trained at Williams and Mary through the State, principals trained at Williams and Mary may be found in

receiving the work of others. Each of these men represents not only himself, but also the hundreds of children who come under his charge.

In concluding this letter, I beg to emphasize a point made by me before the Committee of Finance in favor of an increase of the annual appropriation. The college is anxious to reach the teachers of the State by holding each year a summer session in some suitable location accessible to the public. The many young men who are employed in the rural schools and unable to attend the college at Williamsburg will thus have the special opportunities of the higher instruction, attendance would be permitted to count in credits at the college, should any one care to prosecute his studies at the regular session.

LYON G. TYLER.

Conditions at Catawba.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—In your issue of Sunday, the 17th, I notice an article supposed to be written by Dr. E. G. Williams, stating my charges against the management of the Catawba Sanatorium of January, 1911, and that they had found my charges were not based on facts and there was no foundation for them.

I said I had charged that the Catawba Relief Association was gotten up to deceive the people, and I claimed that there were vacancies at Catawba and no applications on file, and he was filling these vacancies up with old patients who were sent there on account of the six months' rule. This letter was published along with my statement in the Tazewell Republican of January 17, 1911. Dr. Williams explained that I also notice Dr. Williams did not explain why they sent these old patients home because they had no money for new buildings, and on the same day ordered a new residence for the resident physician, which is now completed, and they said, as for drinking water not being furnished bed patients was ridiculous, yet any patient who has been to Catawba will tell you it is, or was, so a bed patient could not get a drink of water, except through the kindness of some patient who was able and willing to go to the spring. There was never any understanding as to how a bed patient of what water, No one was supposed to furnish them with water, and they will tell you it was so up to July, 1911.

I also notice Dr. Williams failed to say why it was that Attorney-General S. W. Williams stated to a friend in Roanoke that in traveling around over the State that he had found a great deal of complaint against the Catawba Sanatorium and he was afraid it was going to be a failure. Now, all this and much more was in my charges, and there is more to come, and I will ask you in fairness to me to publish this statement, so that the people of the State may know the truth, and I will ask you to publish both sides of the matter, and let the people see both sides, and then they can decide for themselves.

Now, by asking Dr. E. G. Williams and Rev. J. T. Mastin, who constitute the State Board of Charities, and also the State Board of Health, to give the names of twelve people out of the 1,100 or 1,200 who have been treated at Catawba Sanatorium, and prove that they have been cured of tuberculosis. That is just 1 per cent. Now, that will show if Catawba has been a success or not, and will show what kind of treatment they have been getting.

J. M. ELLIOTT.

National State and City Bank

RICHMOND, VA.

Depository for the funds of United States Government, Commonwealth of Virginia, city of Richmond.

CAPITAL - \$1,000,000
SURPLUS - \$600,000

Make this Bank YOUR Bank.